Message Text

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TAGS: EINV, ETRD, CA, IR

SUBJ: SECOND IRANO-CANADIAN JOINT MINISTERIAL COMMISSION

1. SUMMARY: THE SECOND IRANO-CANADIAN JOINT MINISTERIAL COMMISSION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION MET IN TEHRAN MAY 16 TO 18 WITH DELEGATIONS LED RESPECTIVELY BY MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND MINES FARROKH NAJMABADI AND MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE JEAN CHRETIEN. SPECIFIC RESULTS ARE JOINT VENTURES IN AN ALUMINUM SMELTER AND PAPER PULP FACILITY AND A \$37 MILLION VOCATIONAL PROGRAN, ALL IN IRAN. POTENTIAL TRADE EXPANSION INCLUDED CANADIAN DASH-7 PLANES AND LONG-TERM OIL PURCHASES. CANADIAN EMBASSY WAS PLEASED WITH MEETING'S RESULTS AND IS HOPEFUL THAT AN IRANIAN DELEGATION VISIT TO CANADA IN SEPTEMBER WILL ADVANCE POSSIBLE JOINT VENTURES.

2. CANADIAN MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE JEAN CHRETIEN LED A DELEGATION OF 13 GOC OFFICIALS AND 12 PREVATE BUSINESSMEN TO THE SECOND IRANO-CANADIAN JOINT MINISTERIAL COMMISSION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN TEHRAN MAY 16-18. THE FIRST SESSION WAS HELD IN OTTAWA IN JULY 1975. HIS HOST, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND MINES NAJMABADI, ARRANGED MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINISTER UNCLASSIFIED

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HOVEYDA, MINISTERS OF COMMERCE, ENERGY, ROADS AND TRANSPORT, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE IRAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND MINES, AND NIOC CHAIRMAN EQBAL, AMONG OTHERS. (CANADIAN EMBASSY SOURCE SAID THAT THE SECOND SESSION WAS ORIGINALLY SCHED-ULED FOR DECEMBER, 1976, BUT MINISTER CHRETIEN ABSENTED HIMSELF AT THE LAST MOMENT DUE TO THE QUEBEC ELECTIONS AND THE DELEGATION CAME ANYWAY.)

3. THE SESSION'S COMMUNIQUE AND PRESS CONFERENCE INCLUDED THE USUAL EXPRESSIONS OF DESIRE TO EXPAND TRADE AND COOPERATION BUT ALSO FOCUSED ON CONCRETE DECISIONS CONCERNING JOINT VENTURES IN IRAN FOR AN ALUMIMUN PLANT IN WHICH ALCAN WILL HAVE AN UNSPECIFIED EQUITY, AN TURN-KEY PAPER PULP FACILITY AT MAZANDARAN AND A \$37 MILLION CONTRACT FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTERS AND RLATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. THE ALUMINUM FACILITY IS THAT RUMORED FOR SOME TIME AND WHICH MAY BE LOCATED AT BANDAR ABBAS OR OESHM ISLAND IN THE PERSIAN GULF. WITH AN ULTIMATE CAPACITY OF 300,000 MT, IT WILL MOST LIKELY USE BAUXITE FROM BRAZIL OR INDIA. ALTHOUGH THE GOI CONTINUES TO SPEAK OF USING IRANIAN ALUMITE. ALCAN IS WORKING ON THE FEASIBILITY STUDY NOW AND THE FIRST WORK AT SITE IS NOT ANTICIPATED FOR SEVERAL YEARS. THE IRANIAN COUNTERPART WILL BE ALUMIRAN, A SUBSIDIARY OF THE GOI'S CONGLOMERATE IRDO. THE PAPER PULP MILL AT MAZANDARAN WILL BE THE SECOND INVOLVING CANADIANS; THE PROJECT WAS DECIDED UPON EARLIER, BUT THIS VISIT ACCOMPLISHED AGREEMENTS ON EQUIPMENT AND FINANCING. THE AGREEMENT CONCLUDED TO ESTABLISH AN IRANO-CANADIAN GROUP TO PROVIDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN VOCATIONAL CENTERS IS ALMOST FIRM, ACCORDING TO THE CANADIAN EMBASSY COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR. IT WOULD INVOLVE THREE CANADIAN COMPANIES AND PROVIDE A \$37 MILLION PACKAGE OF CANADIAN GOODS, TECHNICAL SERVICES AND PERSONNEL OVER THE NEXT COUPLE YEARS; INCLUDED ARE 15 MOBILE UNITS.

4. ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE COURSE OF THE MEETING WERE: (1) IRANIAN PURCHASE OF FIVE DASH-7 PLANES, SAID TO COST \$5 M EACH, BY PARS AIR; (2) IRANIAN INVESTMENT IN A PULP-FIBER PLANT IN CANADA; (3) A JOINT ALUMINUM FABRICATION PROJECT IN IRAN USING IRANIAN UNCLASSIFIED

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INGOTS FOR WIRE, CABLE AND PLATES; (4) POSSIBLE LONG-TERM OIL PURCHASES FROM THE NIOC (CANADIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR SAID THAT LACK OF CANADIAN-OWNED REFINING CAPACITY WAS A PROBLEM IN CONCLUDING SUCH DEALS), AND IN GENERAL, CANADIAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND EXPORT OF MACHINERY TO IRAN IN THE PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY, ROAD CONSTRUCTION, POWER GENERATING PLANTS AND COLD STORAGE FACILITIES. DISCUSSIONS IN THESE LATTER AREAS ARE TO BE ADVANCED IN SEPTEMBER WHEN A DELEGATION FROM IRAN'S CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND MINES IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT CANADA TO DISCUSS WITH MEMBERS OF ITS COUNTERPART POSSIBLE JOINT VENTURES.

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